

PHASE II STORM WATER PROGRAM

Watershed publications: www.crwp.org/publications/publications.htm

Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. www.crwp.org

Geauga Soil & Water Conservation District – Storm Water

www.geaugaswcd.com/stormwater.htm

Geauga Soil & Water Conservation District – Publications

www.geaugaswcd.com/publications.htm

Russell Township's storm water management program is the direct result of the U.S. Clean Water Act of 1972. At that time our nation's waterways were in trouble – we all remember that Lake Erie was "dying," and that the Cuyahoga River was burning. Congress responded by passing new water pollution control laws. In the late 1990's Congress responded to the growing awareness that we still had significant water quality problems, in spite of clean-up requirements. Many of these problems stem from the fact that runoff of rainwater causes serious pollution problems. These include erosion from construction sites, runoff from parking lots and streets, pesticide runoff from agricultural or residential use, and runoff from piles of materials like salt and cinders. Increased development also means more water runs into streams, instead of being absorbed in the ground, causing stream bank erosion and loss of wildlife habitat. All of these resulted in the E.P.A. enacting Phase II regulations of the Clean Water Act.

Beginning March 10, 2003, the U.S. E.P.A. and Ohio E.P.A. N.P.D.E.S. Phase II Storm Water Regulations required designated communities, of which Russell Township is one, to develop and implement a storm water management plan. Russell Township has completed its first five-year permit and is now a co-permittee with Geauga County for the next five years. The Phase II program is composed of six minimum control measures that the Township must continuously address to comply with the requirements. These are:

1. Public Education
2. Public Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post Construction Site Runoff Control
6. Good Housekeeping